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Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY CA/SCS/ RDBELT:DG
APPROVED BY CA/SCS/ JLWARD
NEA/EGY/CKENNEDY
----------102920 241707Z /43
P 241627Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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CAIRO ALSO PASS PORT SAID

E.O. 11652N/A

TAGS:CGEN, CASC SHIPPING AND SEAMEN

SUBJECT:MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR U.S. MERCHANT SEAMEN

REF: A) MC CLELLAND - MARCH 20 LETTER B) GISE REPLY APRIL 10

1. SCS OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED PROBLEMS RAISED REF A RE INADEQUATE AND UNSANITARY MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL TREATMENT RECEIVED BY AMCIT SEAMEN IN ALEXANDRIA WITH UNION AND INDUSTRY REPS. OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE SHIPPING COMPANIES INSTRUCT THEIR AGENTS IN ALEXANDRIA TO USE ONLY DOCTORS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES APPROVED BY CONGEN ALEXANDRIA. UNION REP INTRODUCED SUBJECT AT RECENT MTG OF JOINT LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THIS APPROACH.

2. COMMITTEE REQUESTED DEPARTMENT MAY 11 TO PROVIDE NAME
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OF HOSPITAL AND DOCTOR TO BE AVOIDED AND WITH NAMES OF DOCTORS AND FACILITIES ON APPROVED LIST. WEDID NOT PROVIDE NAMES DR. SERAFY OR SUBSTANDARD HOSP--AL BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FOR CONGEN IF YOUR OPINION OF DOCTOR AND SERVICE BECAME KNOWN IN ALEXANDRIA. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION RE GIVING THIS INFO AS WELL AS NAMES OF APPROVED DOCTORS AND MED. FACILITIES TO JOINT

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COMMITTEE.
3. WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE FOR SHIPPING FIRMS RATHER
THAN CONGEN TO PROVIDEINSTRUCTIONSTO AGENTS RE
REPATRIATION OF SEAMEN FOR MED AL CARE. COMPANIES
PREFER RETURN OF ILL OR INJURED SEAMEN TO U.S. ASAP .
THEY WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR LOCAL AGENTS AND THESE
DECISIONS LARGELY INFLUENCED BY MEDICAL RECOMMENDATIONS.
THERE NORMALLY IS FREQUENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COMPANIES
AND AGENTS RE SENSITIVE OR EMERGENCY CASES, BUT FIRMS
MAKE THE BASIC DECISION .IT THEREFORE PROBABLY BEST
LEAVE THESE DECISIONS IN COMPANY AGENT CHANNEL AND NOT
ATTEMPT SUBSTITUTE CONGEN'S VIEWS FOR MEDICAL OPINION.
HOWEVER, IF CONGEN BELIEVES PHYSICAL OR MENTAL WELL-
BEING OF SEAMEN IS SERIOUSLY IMPERILED, AN EMERGENCY
DECISION BY POST MAY BE NECESSARY. IN SUCH CASES
THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO POST
NEED FOR ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING CONSULTATION WITH
COMPANY RE NEED FOR EMERGENCY ACTION.

4. DO ALEXANDRIA REPS OTHER MAJOR MERCHANT SHIPPING
COUNTRIES HAVE SIMILAR PROBLEM? IF EFFORT RESOLVE
PROBLEMS VIA COMPANIES DOES NOT PROVIDE DESIRED RESULT,
WOULD IT BE EFFECTIVE FOR U.S. ALONE, OR IN CONCERT
WITH OTHERS, TO MAKE AN APPROACH TO CONCERNED MINISTRY
AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH EMBASSY LEVEL?

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5. DOES PORT SAID HAVE SIMILAR PROBLEM? SHOULD WE RE-
QUEST JOINT COMMITEE TO ALSO GIVE SIMILAR DIRECTIONS
TO ITS AGENTS THERE?

6. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS POSTS WISH TO MAKE WOULD
BE APPRECIATED. REGRET DELAY IN REPLYING. CHRISTOPHER

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